

# Where Art Lives

Established in 1914 January 2025



#### Executive Director's Message

Happy New Year! It has been a tremendous year of accomplishments for the Lyme Art Association and our members. I am so proud of our artists - our plein air painters, students, instructors, exhibiting artists, and award winners. Your creativity, skills, and persistence are inspiring. I am proud of our volunteers - our committee members and board members, those who give lectures and art talks, assist with receptions, help keep our building in good shape, and yes, those who write articles and edit our newsletter! Thank you so much.



I am proud of our staff, who work so hard to create spectacular shows, organize educational programs, keep everything running behind the scenes, and promote and sell our members' artwork. And I am proud of our community of supporters - your gifts to the Lyme Art Association help us nurture creativity, showcase artistic excellence, and preserve the beauty of our historic building for everyone to enjoy. I am deeply grateful that you believe in the value of this very special place where art engages us and enriches our lives.

This past year, we made great strides in operational efficiency. It's hard to overstate how excited our staff have been about our new membership and donor system, known as a CRM or "constituent relationship management" system. It has made it much easier for us to track memberships, organize classes and workshops, and run special events. With this system in place, we also initiated online exhibit entry for our 2025 shows, and I am very happy to report that submissions, jurying, and drop-off ran smoothly for First Impressions and A Warm Glow, our first juried shows of the new year.

So what is coming in 2025? As usual, we have a full schedule of exhibitions, educational programs, and special events planned. Mark your calendars for the Art Supply Expo,

(Continued on page 3.)

#### Save the Dates!

Sunday, January 12: Exhibitions Opening Reception 2–4 pm. First Impressions: Associate Artists Annual Show. Congratulations, New Elected Artists. A Warm Glow Exhibition.

Sunday, March 2: Exhibitions Opening Reception 2–4 pm. Exhibition in 4 Acts: Structural, Spring Ahead, Weather or Not, Abstracted. Jane Penfield Solo Show.

**Saturday April 26 Art Supply Expo**. 10 am to 3 pm.

Friday, April 25: Exhibitions Opening Reception 5–7 pm. Ship to Shore Marine Exhibition. Stillness: A Still Life.

**Saturday, May 3: Sea & Sky Soiree.** Featuring Fine Art, Music, and Silent Auction.

Monday, June, Date (To be Announced): Swing for Art: Nine-hole golf party at the Old Lyme Country Club.

**Saturday, June 14: Exhibitions Opening Reception 5–7 pm.** Expanding Visions Exhibition. Hudson Valley Art Association, 92<sup>nd</sup> National Exhibition.

Saturday, June 21: Family Day.

Saturday, July 26: Midsummer Festival.

Saturday, August 2: Exhibitions Opening Reception 5–7 pm. Elected Artist Annual Show. Red Hot. New Haven Paint & Clay Club Select Members Exhibition.

Sunday, Sept. 21: Exhibitions Opening Reception 2–4 pm. New England Landscape Show. The American Artists Professional League Members Show.

Wednesday, October 8, 5:30 pm. LAA Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 6–9 pm.
Palate to Palette, a fun-filled evening of fine food, live music, silent auction, and mystery paintings.

Saturday, October 25: Pumpkin Day

**Sunday, November 23: Exhibitions Opening Reception 2–4 pm.** Deck the Walls Holiday Show. Inside Story.

Details at www.LymeArtAssociation.org

#### From Board President Michael Centrella

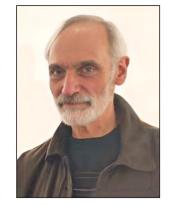
Best wishes to old and new Lyme Art Association members, families, and friends for another year of personal and artistic success.

It's Michael Centrella here, new President of the Board of Directors of your highly successful art home in Old Lyme, the epicenter of Impressionist art in Connecticut. Some of you already know me and for those of you who don't, I look forward to getting to know all of you better during the next two years.

Please also know three things during that time - first, I'm here to work with your carefully chosen LAA Board

of Directors; second, I'm here to work with your LAA Executive Director Elsbeth Dowd, your professional Gallery Manager Paul Michael, your hard-working staff members Sarah Nebel and Sarah Kentoffio, Jolie Collins, Franceska Nebel, new Business Manager Leslie Groves, and enthusiastic and over-worked committee members; and third, I'm here to funnel your compliments, questions, and concerns to everyone involved. Please contact me and I will do my best to make sure your messages are heard.

You're already aware that plenty goes on right in front of you at LAA, every week throughout the year. 2024 was wildly successful by all measures and we are all looking forward to another great year in 2025. At least seventeen exhibits will be mounted in LAA's upstairs and downstairs galleries. They will feature art in many styles and media by LAA members and by other well-known art societies from Connecticut and the northeast. Multiple educational opportunities will be available to expand your painting, drawing, and artistic skills. Demos and lectures will inform and enter-



#### **Board of Directors**

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Del-Bourre Bach, Vice President
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Lorraine Yurkewicz, Secretary
Beverly Schirmeier, Past President
Maura Cochran, Strategic Planning
Margaret Jane DeRisio, Development
Debbi Goodman, Palate to Palette
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Grounds

Jeanne O'Brien, Education & Activities Katherine Simmons, Governance and Newsletter Editor Erin Schaaf, Palate to Palette David Zuckerbraun, Development

#### Staff

Elsbeth Dowd, Executive Director Paul Michael, Gallery Manager Jolie Collins, Communications Manager Leslie Groves, Business Manager Sara Drought Nebel, Gallery Associate Sarah Kentoffio, Gallery Assistant Franceska Nebel, Development Assistant

tain you throughout the year. And several social opportunities will delight LAA's active art-supporting community, including the always highly anticipated Palate to Palette in the fall.

You will continue to learn about these and other LAA events by email, by visiting the LAA website at <a href="https://lymeartassociation.org">https://lymeartassociation.org</a>, and by the periodic LAA newsletter edited by LAA Past-President and current Editor, Kathy Simmons.

Finally, join me in offering sincere thanks to LAA's Immediate Past President Beverly Schirmeier and to LAA board member and Treasurer Paul Sellier, whose terms just ended; and an earnest welcome to LAA's new Vice President Del-Bourree Bach, Secretary Lorraine Yurkewicz, and Treasurer John Beatty.

Michael Centrella for the Board of the Lyme Art Association <u>michael ctart@yahoo.com</u>



(Continued from page 1.) the Sea & Sky Soiree, Swing for Art, Family Day, the Midsummer Festival, and Palate to Palette, along with all our opening receptions! A few highlights of the new year include:

Online exhibit entry: Entry for all of our juried shows this year will be online. This will make it easier for our artists to enter shows and easier for our staff to manage installation and promotion - a win-win for all. Please check the exhibition calendar carefully, as entry dates are significantly before receiving dates.

New online programming: Natural Science Illustration Courses organized by Betsy Barry. These classes provide a wonderful opportunity for artists of all levels to enhance their skills, with options ranging from Introduction to Drawing to Botanical Illustration to Vertebrate Anatomy for Artists. This is also a chance for those who cannot physically travel to Old Lyme to participate in classes.

Enhanced membership benefits: We are actively working on creating more benefits for our members, including receiving a paper copy of this newsletter that you are reading! All members are eligible to enter shows, receive invitations to Members Day and other events, and receive discounts on LAA workshops and discounts with our neighbor, deGerenday's Fine Art Materials. Elected Artists have their own gallery, show, and page on our website. Associate Artists have their own show, and this year we

will be developing a section on our website highlighting their art and accomplishments. We are grateful for our members' support, which is the backbone of our organization.

**Partner Wall program:** In 2024 we successfully launched our partnership program in 2024 to highlight the voices of sister nonprofits and expand our audiences. We are looking forward to some wonderful new partnerships in 2025.

Family programs: We were delighted to welcome so many families and young people to the gallery in 2024. This year we will continue our Young Artists Show, Family Day, Pumpkin Day, and Represent! family art series, inspiring creativity in our community and making the Lyme Art Association a home for generations of artists to come.

Accessibility: We are in the early stages of planning accessibility enhancements for the building, so that our gallery, studio, and facilities are accessible to people of every ability.

Thank you for helping us make the Lyme Art Association such a remarkable place, where our community's rich artistic heritage inspires us today! Please stop by to say hello anytime - we are always happy to see you come through our blue doors.

Warmest regards, Elsbeth Dowd, Ph.D., Executive Director

### **CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

We have some changes in our board positions and staff members this year. First of all, please join me in welcoming our new Board President, Michael Centrella, and new Board Members Lois Lawrence and Jeanne O'Brien. We are very grateful for Beverly Schirmeier, our outgoing President, and Paul Sellier, our outgoing Treasurer, who have dedicated so much time to the Lyme Art Association. Thankfully, they plan to stay involved! Other new Board officers include Del-Bourree Bach as Vice President, Lorraine Yurkewicz as Secretary, and John Beatty as Treasurer.

Next, join me in welcoming Leslie Groves as our new business manager. Ann Chan, after many years with LAA, retired at the end of 2024. We are so grateful for all Ann has done for us, from managing accounts to running our receptions, and all of us wish her well in her retirement. Leslie brings enthusiasm and a wealth of common sense to the position. She also has strong community connections, as a member of the Lions Club and President of the Duck River Garden Club. Stop by the office to say hello!

Are you interested in joining an LAA committee, joining the Board, or volunteering in any other capacity? Reach out to Elsbeth Dowd at <a href="mailto:elsbeth@lymeartassociation.org">elsbeth@lymeartassociation.org</a>. We are especially seeking volunteers with strong local connections and those with an interest or experience in finances, marketing, and fundraising. If you have any experience with accessibility projects or advocacy, we would also particularly like to speak with you, as we are starting to plan for accessibility enhancements to our building.



Top row: Beverly Schirmeier , Del Bourre Bach, Lorraine Yurkewitz. Middle row: John Beatty, Lois Lawrence, Paul Sellier. Bottom row: Jeanne O'Brien, Leslie Grove, Elsbeth Dowd, Ann Chan.

### **CONGRATULATIONS New Elected Artist Members**

The art of **Elaine Juska Joseph** has appeared in numerous publications. Her sketchbook "Tiny Connecticut Farm – Winter", was chosen by the Brooklyn Art Library to travel with its mobile library across the country. She was one of only 128 artists selected for publication in North Light Books' "Strokes of Genius 9 – Creative Discoveries" and she participated in the highly acclaimed public art project, "The Stonington Lobster Trap Tree". Elaine received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from Parsons School of Design in New York City, and furthered her studies at Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Lyme, CT.

**Lisa Miceli** is a member of the Noank 9, paints plein air regularly throughout the year and leads classes and workshops throughout the region. She recently co-chaired the New England Watercolor Society "Brushes with Nature," a plein air show. A significant influence on her painting was her grandmother who was an illustrator and watercolorist in the 1930s WPA program. "In my plein air painting I am seeking to convey something deeper about the land, sea and sky than meets the eye, something that is under the surface but visible only when we slow down to look, uncovering what is beautiful in the seemingly ordinary."

Jane Penfield is inspired by nature, as well as to the human influence on it, especially elements that evoke light, drama, and emotion. Her work is an impression of light and life as she has experienced it through walking, travel, and direct observation. She finds great joy in the creative process and in teaching. "I have been fortunate to have made a career in the arts, first as a choral director and administrator of nonprofit arts organizations, while creating visual art in my "spare" time. Now able to focus primarily on painting, I find great joy and peace in the creative process and in teaching.

Originally from Rhode Island, **Steven Plaziak** was inspired by artists of the Providence Art Club such as Spencer Crooks and has studied with amazing artists such as Don Stone, David Dewey, Gary Tucker, Suzanne Siegel and others. His inspiration comes from the natural beauty of New England, with its many fleeting moments and interesting subjects. Each season brings nuances to his color palette. Painting primarily in watercolor, Steven experiments with oil, acrylic and gouache. "I try to paint the atmosphere, to convey the essence of a subject, while emphasizing color, composition, layout, value, harmony and light."

Catherine Puccio's love of animals and pursuit of truth in nature, evokes a human and oftentimes humorous quality to her animal portraits. She strives for that same vibrant connection in her still life paintings, portraits and landscape works. The artist tells a story in her paintings, and always finds beauty in the ordinary. Catherine Puccio first fell in love with oil painting as a student at the Ridgewood Art Institute under the tutelage of Arthur Maynard and went on to earn her undergraduate degree and master's degree at Williams College and the University of Bridgeport, respectively.



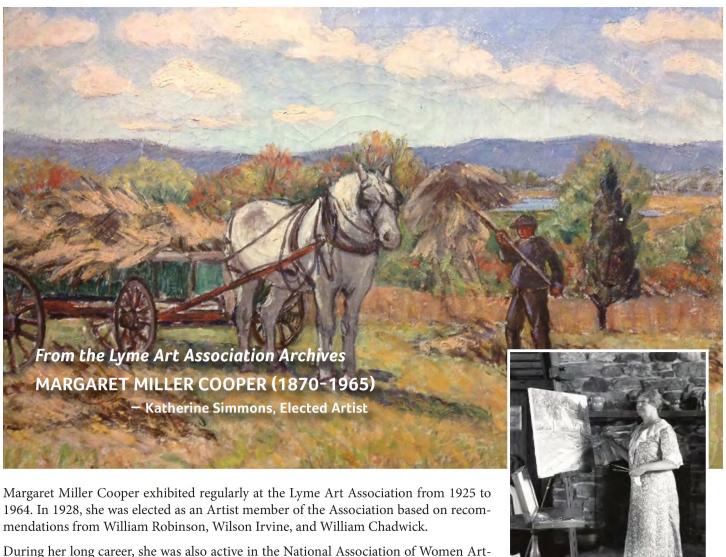








Art, top left, clockwise: Elaine Juska Joseph, Dashing Through the Snow, pastel; Jane Penfield, Isle of Shoals Afternoon, pastel; Steven Plaziak, Upper West River Falls, watercolor; Lisa Micelli, Afternoon Light, watercolor; Catherine Puccio, Oakley and Minnie, oil.



During her long career, she was also active in the National Association of Women Artists, The Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, New Haven Paint and Clay Club, Allied Artists, and the Palm Beach League of Artists.

Her style was influenced by the Impressionists, and her favorite subjects, often rendered in high color, were old Connecticut homesteads and farm scenes around her summer home in Lyme. She loved old trees, weathered farmhouses, oxen and workhorses.

Following her graduation from Smith College in 1897, Margaret pursued art studies at the Arts Students League in New York City and Pratt Institute rounded out with tutelage from artists Guy Wiggins, Charles Woodbury, Henry Snell and Robert Brackman.

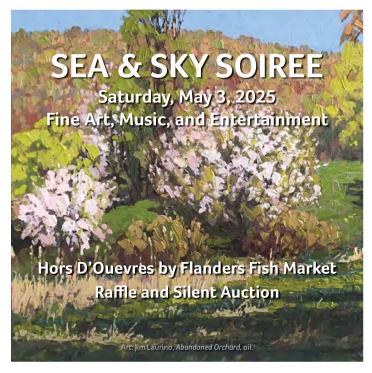
Margaret was born in Terryville, Connecticut on March 4, 1874, the daughter of Nathan Gladwin and Celia (Stanley) Miller. She died in New Britain, Connecticut on 18 May 1965 at the age of 91. Margaret married Elisha Hilliard Cooper on January 4, 1901. Elisha was a New Britain business leader and rose to the position of chairman of the Fafnir Bearing Company. Elisha was born in Rockport, Massachusetts on 2 October 1869, the son of the Reverend James W. and Mary Ellen (Hibbard) Cooper. Elisha died in Daytona, Florida on 4 January 1947 at the age of 77. Margaret and Elisha Cooper are buried in Fairview Cemetery in New Britain.

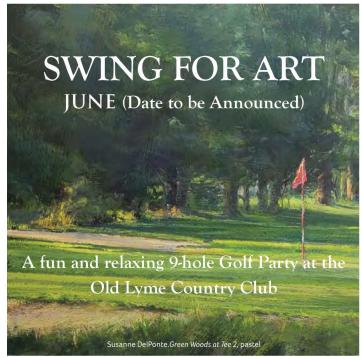
In September of 1965 just a few months after her death, the Lyme Art Association presented memorial exhibitions of the artworks of Margaret Miller Cooper and her exact contemporary Will Howe Foote, Foote (1874–1965) who was one of the original Artist members of the Association.

The former north gallery at Lyme Art Association was renamed as the Cooper-Ferry Gallery in 2000 to honor Margaret Miller Cooper and her friend and fellow Lyme Art Association Artist member Barbara Ferry (1910-2003).

Sources: www.Archive.org. Collection of Lyme Historical Society Archives at Florence Griswold Museum. The Day, New London CT, 10 September 1965, page 16. US Census Records, Ancestry.com. Social Security Death Index, Ancestry.com. FindAGrave.com memorial #45802648.

# SAVE THE DATES!







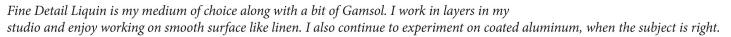
# LYMAN ORCHARD & TWO OLD FRIENDS - Linda Boisvert DeStefanis, LAA Elected Artist

Several years ago, I fell in love with the red barn at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield, Connecticut and its beautiful, old tree. Last year, I came across my photos of them and felt that it was time to paint them.

A friend and I took a ride to see them again and to take a few more reference photographs. To our surprise, the tree was gone! I needed my older photos of the tree to paint them both together again.

First, I chose to tackle a 12x12" smaller painting. It helped me familiarize myself with the two. Afterwards, I began to sketch the large barn to start the 30x30" painting. This was going to take some time and work, but I set out to accomplish this feat with enthusiasm! It took me many hours to complete the large painting as I work in oils in layers ... this was a time consuming challenge.

Oils have always been my medium of choice since I began painting in oils as a teen, because of the ability to blend and their 'open time' which allows me to work into the paint before it dries, usually by the next day.



I often use one to three photo references to gather the information I need to complete a painting. Some photos are used for the composition and others for close-ups of sections that I may need for a more detailed area.

My artwork is inspired by nature's fleeting moments of dynamic beauty. The lighting is always the key to success in my artworks. These paintings of two old friends have since been in a few art shows.

I had written a post on Instagram about the large "Old Friends" 30x30" rendition being part of our LAA New England Landscape Show and about how the tree was gone now. Another artist told me of how she also loved these two together and was sad about that. Then, two days later, she wrote to tell me, "I can't believe it, but they took the barn down!!"

So, now my two paintings are part of history, as many of our artworks become over time.



Linda DeStefanis, Lyman Barn & Friend, oil, 12" x 12"



Linda DeStefanis, Old Friends, oil, 30" x 30"

### **NEW HAVEN PAINT & CLAY CLUB CELEBRATES 125 YEARS**

- Michael Centrella, LAA Elected Artist

The turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a surge in the formation of art societies that still operate today including The Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts established in 1910, Lyme Art Association established in 1914, and New Haven Paint & Clay Club which is the oldest of these Connecticut art societies. Founded in 1900, the Club will celebrate it 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025.

The New Haven Paint & Clay Club (NHP&CC) was founded by artists from Yale University to show their own work, and by regional art enthusiasts to share pieces from their personal collections. Its exhibits grew so large that the Club soon only showcased work by its member artists, and eventually submissions from open juried exhibitions.

The Club holds a large permanent collection, begun in the 1920s, of art purchased directly from its shows. Selections from the collection are displayed in public places in the area and online at the Club's website. A retrospective will be held at the New Haven Museum in the spring of 2025.

In its beginning years, Club artist membership was by invitation. In the 1970s, however, active artists could join after exhibiting in two annual juried shows. Club membership remains competitive and sought after today. The Club now sponsors two major exhibitions every year, a spring juried show of member and non-member artists from the northeast, and a fall show of its active members. It also hosts occasional smaller shows, including a small selection of artists honored by the juror of the fall active members exhibit. The Select Members show will again be mounted in 2025 at the Lyme Art Association .

Catalogues from the early shows of the New Haven Paint & Clay Club reveal a nationwide membership and a virtual Who's Who of art makers whose works remain highly prized today. Some well-recognized artists who exhibited with the Club in the first half of the 20th century include Jay Connaway, Max Dellfant, J. J. Enneking, Gertrude Fiske, Deane Keller, Carl Lawless, Sanford Low, Ethel Paxson, Eugene Savage, Anthony Thieme as well as National Academy of Design (NA) artists Henry Gasser, Emile Gruppe, Aldro Hibbard, Harry Leith-Ross, William Lester Stevens and John Ferguson Weir who was a Club founder and the inaugural director of the country's first university art school at Yale.

An early New Haven Paint & Clay Club exhibitor was Aldro Thompson Hibbard. He was born in Massachusetts, studied with Edmund Tarbell at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and worked for most of his life in Rockport. Hibbard is well-known for his iconic snow-filled landscapes and Cape Anne nautical views. His depiction of sailboats in a wintry harbor, "The Black Sail" (above right), entered the NHP&CC collection in 1937.

Henry Martin Gasser (1909-1981) was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. He studied with John Grabach in Gasser's hometown and at the Art Students League in NYC. Gasser was a regional realist and a second-generation proponent of the



Aldro Thompson Hibbard (1886-1972), The Black Sail, oil.

Ashcan School tradition. "Harrison Heights" (Figure 2) is very typical of his winter-time urban landscapes and was purchased by the Club in 1944.

Importantly, many New Haven Paint & Clay Club artists were also members of national and regional art societies such as the National Academy of Design, Connecticut Academy of Fine

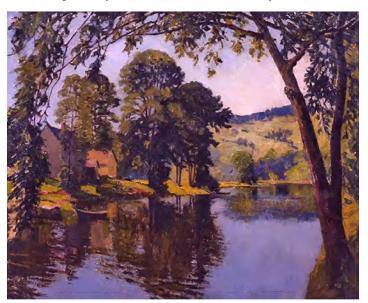


Henry Martin Gasser (1909-1981), Harrison Heights, oil

Arts, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Rockport Art Association, and Lyme Art Association.

Lyme Art Association artists who consistently contributed to New Haven Paint & Clay Club shows included Bertram Bruestle, Winfield Scott Clime, Harry Hoffman, James Goodwin McManus, Chauncey F. Ryder, Frederick Lester Sexton, Guy Wiggins, and Edward Volkert.

Among the many Old Lyme artists who competed for entry to NHP&CC and LAA shows, James Goodwin McManus (1882-1958) was thoroughly Connecticut. McManus was born in Hartford and studied with artists in the region. He taught art in Hartford Public High School, was president of the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts and the Hartford Salmagundians, and lived in Old Lyme until his passing. A classic example of his landscape style is the Hamburg Cove view, "The Eight Mile River", acquired by the New Haven Paint & Clay Club in 1942.



James Goodwin McManus (1882-1952), The Eight Mile River, oil.

Another well-recognized LAA member, Edward Charles Volkert (1871-1935) was born and raised in Cincinnati where he studied with Frank Duveneck, and at the Art Students League in New York City before he settled in Old Lyme. His bucolic images of hay workers and cattle in Lyme pastures clearly reveal the influence of Duveneck's bright color pallet. "Winter Quarters" is characteristic of Volkert's later work and was collected by the Club in 1933.

The long list of active members of the New Haven Paint & Clay Clug and Lyme Art Association persists today. We know who we are and we are privileged to celebrate our historic traditions.

Sources: <a href="www.NewHavenPaintAndClayClub.org">www.NewHavenPaintAndClayClub.org</a>. <a href="www.NewHavenMuseum.org">www.NewHavenMuseum.org</a>. Who Was Who in American Art (Sound View Press; Peter Hastings Falk, editor).



Edward Charles Volkert (1871-1935), Winter Quarters, oil.

#### BEGINNER, EXPERT, OR ART LOVER

The Lyme Art Association has a painting group, class, workshop, lecture or other program that will elevate your technique, exercise your creativity, or enrich your understanding.



More Information at www.LymeArtAssociation.org/Programs

## 2024 Report

### Contributions: Annual Fund, Membership, Scholarship Donations, Special Events, & Sponsorships

	\$10,000	) +	
	The Kitchings Fami		
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John & Sue Beatty Maura & Bill Cochran	Department of Economic & Co. Connecticut Office		Deborah & David Goodmar Town of Old Lyme
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Antonacci Family Foundation	Guilford Savings Bank in partnership with the		Steven & Frani Ross
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Chelsea Groton Bank	Liberty Bank		Katherine Simmons
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James Anderson	Cara Biega	Brian Cole	Kathleen DeMeo
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#### Up to \$99

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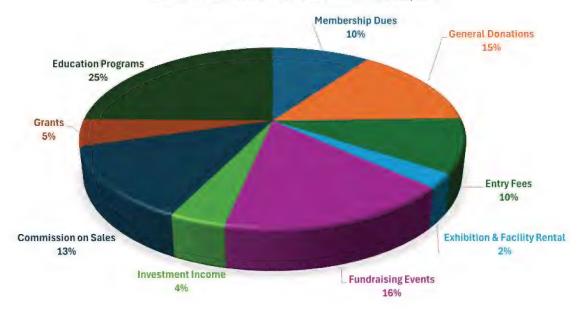
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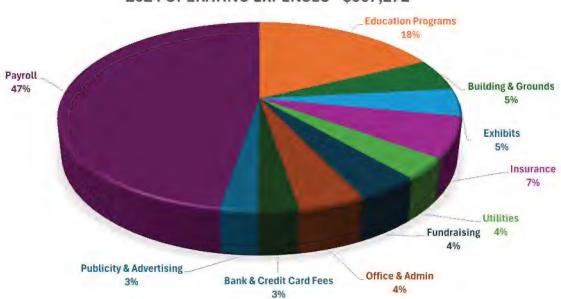
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2024 OPERATING REVENUES \$582,174



LYME ART ASSOCIATION
2024 OPERATING EXPENSES \$567,272



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#### Finally, join with us as we thank our fabulous, talented, and generous volunteers!

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Are you interested in joining an LAA committee, joining the Board, or volunteering in any other capacity?

Reach out to Elsbeth Dowd at elsbeth Slymeartassociation.org.

We are especially seeking volunteers with strong local connections and those with an interest or experience in finances, marketing, and fundraising. If you have any experience with accessibility projects or advocacy, we would also particularly like to speak with you, as we are starting to plan for accessibility enhancements to our building.

#### **Institutional Partners & Major Exhibition Sponsors**



















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## **Upcoming Art Talks at Lyme Art Association**

Bob Potter: Wondrous Strange - The Wyeths: N.C. Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth and Jamie Wyeth







Jamie Wyeth, Pumpkinhead

Andrew Wyeth, Christina's World,

N.C. Wyeth, Treasure Island

From the swashbuckling illustrations of N.C. Wyeth for Treasure Island, Kidnapped and other classics, followed by Andrew Wyeth's elegiac paintings of the landscapes and people of rural Pennsylvania and seacoast Maine, and continuing with Jamie Wyeth in his portraits of both the famous as well as the people and places in his personal life, Bob Potter will explore the iconic paintings of each artist with biographical details of their lives and revealing videos in which Andrew and Jamie Wyeth discuss what has inspires their artistic visions as they continued the legacy of this singular family of American artists.

Saturday, January 25th at 3 pm | Tickets: \$10 per person | Register for this Art Talk





Mike Laiuppa and Brian McClear: Photography Talk for Artists

Saturday, February 1st at 2 pm

Free Event | Register for this Art Talk





Join us as David Oat guides us through the colonial gravestones and the stories they tell. A native of Southeastern Connecticut, David Oat is the cemetery and burial grounds historian for the Norwich Historical Society and board member for the Connecticut Gravestones Network. Colonial burial grounds are outdoor museums reflecting New England's early Colonial history and representing the artistry of individual craftsmen. Explore these places and you will find art, genealogy, and our country's first sculpture." David has consulted with many local organizations interested in the preservation of local Colonial burial grounds or restoration of their hand cut monuments. Saturday, March 1 at 3 pm | Tickets: \$10 per person | Register for this Art Talk



